

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-5 and 7-46 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 9, 14-23 and 46 have been amended herein. Claims 24-37 and 40-45 and 47-49 are canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An immunogenic composition comprising:
a means for providing protection to an animal against a pathogen of *Yersinia* origin, the means
for providing protection comprising an isolated or recombinant YscF protein comprising
SEQ ID NO: 19; and
a pharmaceutically suitable excipient.
2. (Original) The immunogenic composition of claim 1, further comprising LcrV, the F1 antigen, YopD, an attenuated *Yersinia* bacterium, a recombinant carrier bacterium including a nucleic acid encoding a YscF protein, an inactive or killed *Yersinia* bacterium or combinations thereof.
3. (Original) The immunogenic composition of claim 1, further comprising an adjuvant.
4. (Original) The immunogenic composition of claim 1, further comprising PrgI, MxiH, EscF or combinations thereof.
5. (Original) The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the pathogen is *Yersinia pestis*.
6. (Canceled)

7. (Withdrawn and currently amended) A method for conducting a health program for immunizing subjects in a population or a sub-population against *Yersinia* infections, said ~~health program~~ method comprising:

administering the immunogenic composition of claim 1 to at least some of the subjects of the population or the sub-population.

8. (Original) The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the means for providing protection to an animal against a pathogen of *Yersinia* origin is a His-tagged YscF protein.

9. (Currently amended) An immunogenic composition for providing protection to an animal against a pathogen of *Yersinia* origin comprising:

a recombinant YscF protein or a protective epitope thereof comprising SEQ ID NO: 19; and a pharmaceutically suitable excipient.

10. (Original) The immunogenic composition of claim 9, further comprising LcrV, the F1 antigen, YopD, an attenuated *Yersinia* bacterium, a recombinant carrier bacterium including a nucleic acid encoding a YscF protein, an inactive or killed *Yersinia* bacterium or combinations thereof.

11. (Original) The immunogenic composition of claim 9, further comprising an adjuvant.

12. (Original) The immunogenic composition of claim 9, further comprising PrgI, MxiH, EscF or mixtures thereof.

13. (Original) The immunogenic composition of claim 9, wherein the recombinant YscF comprises His-tagged YscF.

14. (Withdrawn and currently amended) A method for conducting a health program for immunizing subjects in a population or a sub-population against *Yersinia* infections, said ~~health program~~ method comprising:

administering the immunogenic composition of claim 9 to at least some of the subjects of the population or the sub-population.

15. (Currently amended) A composition produced by a process, the process comprising: providing a host cell with an expression vector ~~including~~ comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a YscF protein capable of providing protection to an animal against a pathogen of *Yersinia* origin, the nucleotide sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 19;

expressing the nucleotide sequence in the host cell to produce the YscF protein;

collecting the YscF protein; and

mixing the collected YscF protein with a suitable excipient.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The composition produced by the process of claim 15, where the YscF protein is~~ A composition produced by a process, the process comprising:

providing a host cell with an expression vector including a nucleotide sequence encoding a His-tagged YscF protein of comprising SEQ ID NO: 12;

expressing the nucleotide sequence in the host cell to produce the His-tagged YscF protein;

collecting the His-tagged YscF protein; and

mixing the collected His-tagged YscF protein with a suitable excipient so as to form the composition.

17. (Currently amended) The composition produced by the process of claim ~~15~~ 16, further comprising mixing LcrV, the F1 antigen, YopD or combinations thereof with the suitable excipient.

18. (Currently amended) The composition produced by the process of claim ~~15~~ 16, further comprising mixing an adjuvant with the suitable excipient.

19. (Currently amended) The composition produced by the process of claim ~~15~~16, further comprising mixing PrgI, MxiH, EscF or combinations thereof with the suitable excipient.

20. (Currently amended) An isolated or recombinant YscF protein capable of providing protection to an animal against a pathogen of *Yersinia* origin, the isolated or recombinant YscF protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 19.

21. (Currently amended) ~~The~~An isolated or recombinant YscF protein ~~of claim 20,~~
capable of providing protection to an animal against a pathogen of *Yersinia* origin, wherein the isolated or recombinant YscF protein is encoded by a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO: 11 and SEQ ID NO: 13.

22. (Currently amended) A His-tagged YscF protein, the YscF protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 19.

23. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A His-tagged YscF protein ~~of claim 22,~~ wherein the peptide sequence is SEQ ID NO: 12.

24-37 (Canceled)

38. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 1, wherein the pathogen is selected from the group consisting of all of the members of the genus *Yersinia*.

39. (Previously Presented) The immunogenic composition of claim 38, wherein the pathogen is selected from the group consisting of *Y. pestis*, *Y. pseudotuberculosis*, and *Y. enterocolitica*.

40-45 (Canceled)

46. (Currently Amended) A kit for performing ~~the~~ method of ~~claim 45~~ detecting an antibody capable of binding a YscF protein, the kit comprising:
~~the~~ an isolated or recombinant YscF protein comprising SEQ ID NO: 19; and
means for detecting binding between the isolated or recombinant YscF protein and the antibody capable of binding the YscF protein.

47-49 (Canceled)